



February 13, 2008

Chairman Kevin Martin  
Commissioners Michael Copps  
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Commissioner Robert McDowell

**Re: WC Docket No. 07-52**

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners:

The Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) provides global public policy, business networking, and national leadership to promote the continued rapid growth of the IT industry. ITAA consists of some 300 corporate members throughout the U.S. The Association plays the leading role in issues of IT industry concern including information security, taxes and finance policy, digital intellectual property protection, telecommunications competition, workforce and education, immigration, online privacy and consumer protection, government IT procurement, human resources and e-commerce policy. ITAA members range from the smallest IT start-ups to industry leaders in the Internet, software, IT services, digital content, systems integration, telecommunications, and enterprise solution fields. We are comprised of companies in the information and communications technology industry, one of the leading creators of job and income in the United States. As this industry remains dynamic and continues to evolve, we aim to keep it open to innovative new competitors, with low barriers for entry.

As you know, the Internet and the private networks that comprise it have become the lifeblood of today's digital economy. However, future development of the Internet is partly dependent on the decisions we make about public policy. We commend the FCC for its continued efforts to encourage greater competition, continued innovation and accelerated adoption of broadband through fact-based policies that reflect a careful examination of empirical evidence.

For example, Americans' ability to enjoy the full benefits of the Internet, including information exchange, entertainment, distance learning, and telemedicine applications, will depend in part on the networks' ability to handle an ongoing explosion in bandwidth demands. We also need to limit the impact of bad behavior by the small number of Internet users that use the Internet to invade privacy, steal identities, distribute spam and spyware and infect the system with worms and viruses.

**Information Technology Association of America**

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These challenges give added importance to the Commission's inquiry into the nature of reasonable network management, which ITAA believes is essential to the efficient operation of the Internet. Reasonable network management helps fend off a range of pernicious activities that can degrade the Internet experience. Reasonable network management, including a variety of innovative technologies, provides "smart" networks that enable the Internet to handle new bandwidth-heavy applications. Reasonable network management means more efficient and reliable networks, and thus a better user experience for consumers and businesses alike.

We support continued FCC oversight to ensure that network operators respect the FCC's four core principles for the Internet. But we urge the Commission to avoid new rules that would hamstring the ability of network operators to respond to the daily ebb and flow of Internet traffic, including sudden and unexpected attacks that can infect the networks with viruses or otherwise interfere with smooth operations.

Furthermore, we are concerned that blanket "bright line" prohibitions on the use of specific management tools would bar the use of tools that can keep traffic moving even in times of extreme congestion. Given the dynamic nature of the networks we are concerned that excessive regulation could unwittingly block the development of innovative and beneficial applications that we cannot anticipate today. Unwarranted regulations could restrict providers' ability to protect consumers from threats to the network and to ensure that the networks are functioning efficiently.

Therefore, we urge you to proceed with extreme caution before imposing new restrictions on reasonable network management. Indeed, we believe the Commission's historic restraint in this area has helped unleash a wave of dynamic Internet innovation. Because of this light regulatory touch, the development of the Internet has been restricted only by the limits of our own imagination. Heavy-handed rule-making in the area of network management could well reverse this policy success and impose needless limits on the Internet's continued growth.

We urge the FCC to recognize that reasonable network management is an important reason that Americans now enjoy a high-quality experience when working or surfing online. The ITAA encourages you to maintain a regulatory environment that supports continued expansion of Internet opportunity and innovation and also enables America's networks to successfully handle the growing demand for new broadband capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip J. Bond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "J".

Phillip J. Bond  
President and CEO